

### Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting a data link user for a  
2 communication protocol, comprising:  
at a data link provider, receiving from a data link user through an interface  
4 defined between the data link provider and the data link user, a first request to identify a  
medium access control type supported by the data link provider;  
6 receiving at the data link provider from the data link user a second request to  
identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider; and  
8 in response to said second request, enabling the data link user to parse a  
communication formatted according to the communication protocol and received at the  
10 data link user from the data link provider.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 in response to said first request, indicating to the data link user that the medium  
access control type is a type not registered with the interface.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said  
2 enabling comprises:  
sending the data link user an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document  
4 describing a format of the communication protocol.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said  
2 enabling comprises:  
sending the data link user a set of data describing a format of the communication  
4 protocol.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said  
2 enabling comprises:  
making available to the data link user a set of processor executable instructions  
4 for parsing a communication formatted according to ~~format of~~ the communication

protocol.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium  
2 storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a  
method of adapting a data link user for a communication protocol, the method  
4 comprising:  
at a data link provider, receiving from a data link user through an interface  
6 defined between the data link provider and the data link user, a first request to identify a  
medium access control type supported by the data link provider;  
8 receiving at the data link provider from the data link user a second request to  
identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider; and  
10 in response to said second request, enabling the data link user to parse a  
communication formatted according to the communication protocol and received at the  
12 data link user from the data link provider.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting a data link user for to  
2 a communication protocol supported by a data link provider, comprising:  
at the a data link user, through an interface defined between the data link user and  
4 a data link provider, requesting the data link provider to identify a medium access control  
type supported by the data link provider;  
6 at the data link user, requesting the data link provider to identify a communication  
protocol supported by the data link provider; and  
8 at the data link user, receiving ~~a description of a format of the communication~~  
~~protocol~~ from the data link provider information enabling the data link user to parse a  
10 communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
2 receiving at the data link user, in response to said request to identify a medium  
access control type, an indication that said medium access control type is not one of a  
4 predetermined set of medium access control types registered with the interface.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said  
2 receiving comprises:  
receiving an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document describing a ~~said~~  
4 format of the communication protocol.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said  
2 receiving comprises:  
receiving a set of data describing a ~~said~~ format of the communication protocol.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said  
2 receiving comprises:  
receiving access to a set of processor executable instructions for parsing the ~~said~~  
4 communication ~~protocol~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium  
2 storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a  
method of adapting a data link user for ~~to~~ a communication protocol supported by a data  
4 link provider, the method comprising:  
at the a data link user, through an interface defined between the data link user and  
6 a data link provider, requesting the data link provider to identify a medium access control  
type supported by the data link provider;  
8 at the data link user, requesting the data link provider to identify a communication  
protocol supported by the data link provider; and  
10 at the data link user, receiving ~~a description of a format of the communication~~  
~~protocol~~ from the data link provider information enabling the data link user to parse a  
12 communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting a data link user for a  
2 communication protocol supported by a data link provider, wherein the data link user and  
data link provider communicate via an interface, comprising:  
4 at the data link user, issuing a first request to the data link provider to identify a

medium access control type supported by the data link provider;

6           at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a first response comprising  
an indication that the medium access control type is unknown to the interface;

8           at the data link user, issuing a second request to the data link provider to identify a  
communication protocol supported by the data link provider for the medium access  
10 control type; and

            at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a second response enabling  
12 the data link user to parse a communication formatted according to the communication  
protocol.

14.   (Original)    The method of claim 13, wherein:

2           said first request comprises the DLPI (Data Link Provider Interface) primitive  
DL\_INFO\_REQ; and

4           said first response comprises the DLPI primitive DL\_INFO\_ACK with the  
parameter dl\_mac\_type having the value DL\_OTHER.

15.   (Original)    The method of claim 13, wherein said second response

2 comprises an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document describing a format of the  
communication protocol.

16.   (Original)    The method of claim 13, wherein said second response

2 comprises a set of data describing a format of the communication protocol.

17.   (Currently Amended)    The method of claim 13, wherein said

2 second response comprises a set of processor executable instructions for parsing a  
communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

18.   (Currently Amended)    The method of claim 13, wherein said

2 second response comprises access to a set of processor executable instructions, on the  
data link provider, for parsing a communication formatted according to the  
4 communication protocol.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium  
2 storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a  
method of adapting a data link user for a communication protocol supported by a data  
4 link provider, wherein the data link user and data link provider communicate via an  
interface, the method comprising:  
6 at the data link user, issuing a first request to the data link provider to identify a  
medium access control type supported by the data link provider;  
8 at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a first response comprising  
an indication that the medium access control type is unknown to the interface;  
10 at the data link user, issuing a second request to the data link provider to identify a  
communication protocol supported by the data link provider for the medium access  
12 control type; and  
at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a second response enabling  
14 the data link user to parse a communication formatted according to the communication  
protocol.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for adapting a data link user for a  
2 communication protocol supported by data link user, comprising:  
a data link provider configured to provide data link layer services;  
4 a data link user configured to access said data link services; and  
an extended implementation of DLPI (Data Link Provider Interface), in which:  
6 said data link user is configured to request said data link provider to  
identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider; and  
8 said data link provider is configured to offer said data link user, in  
response to said request, information ~~for parsing~~ enabling the data link user to  
10 parse a communication formatted according to the communication protocol.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said data link provider  
2 comprises a device driver for a communication interface device.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said data link user  
2 comprises a snoop utility for parsing a communication received by said data link  
provider.

23. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said information offered  
2 by said data link provider comprises an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document  
describing a format of the communication protocol.

24. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said information offered  
2 by said data link provider comprises a set of data describing a format of the  
communication protocol.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein said  
2 information offered by said data link provider comprises a set of processor executable  
instructions for parsing a communication formatted according to the communication  
4 protocol.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein said  
2 information offered by said data link provider enables said data link user to access, on  
said data link provider, a set of processor executable instructions for parsing a  
4 communication formatted according to the communication protocol.